

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please *amend claims 12, 33 and 35, and cancel claims 15-16*, without prejudice, as shown in the following listing of all claims ever presented. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions thereof.

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An electrochemical cell for electrolysis of an aqueous solution of hydrogen chloride comprising:

- a) an anode half-cell comprising an anode,
- b) a cathode half-cell comprising a gas diffusion electrode as the cathode,

and

c) an ion exchange membrane comprising a perfluorosulfonic acid polymer which is positioned between a) and b)

wherein the gas diffusion electrode has a surface having a geometric area, and wherein the ion exchange membrane has a surface having a geometric area, the surface of the ion exchange membrane comprising a layer of the perfluorosulfonic acid polymer with a support member embedded therein, and wherein the surface of the gas diffusion electrode and the surface of the ion exchange membrane are adjacent to each other and, at a pressure of 250 g/cm² and a temperature of 60°C, the gas diffusion electrode and the ion exchange membrane have a contact area of at least 50% of their geometric area.

13. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 12 in which the contact area of the gas diffusion electrode and ion exchange membrane is at least 70%.

14. (Canceled)

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 12 in which the ion exchange membrane comprises at least two layers of perfluorosulfonic acid polymer and a support member is embedded between the two layers or in at least one of the layers.

19. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 13 in which the ion exchange membrane comprises at least two layers of perfluorosulfonic acid polymer and a support member is embedded between the two layers or in at least one of the layers.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 18 in which the two layers of perfluorosulfonic acid polymer have different equivalent weights.

22. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 19 in which the two layers of perfluorosulfonic acid polymer have different equivalent weights.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 12 in which the perfluorosulfonic acid polymer has an equivalent weight of from 600 to 2500.

25. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 13 in which the perfluorosulfonic acid polymer has an equivalent weight of from 600 to 2500.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 12 in which the perfluorosulfonic acid polymer has an equivalent weight of from 900 to 2000.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 18 in which the perfluorosulfonic acid layer with one of its surfaces facing the gas diffusion electrode has a higher equivalent weight than any other perfluorosulfonic acid layer.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The electrochemical cell of Claim 12 in which a catalyst layer for the gas diffusion electrode is applied to the ion exchange membrane.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The electrochemical cell of Claim 12, wherein the support member comprises in which the ion exchange membrane has a support structure comprising a gauze, woven fabric, braided fabric, knit fabric, non-woven material, plastic foam or elastically deformable material.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently Amended) The electrochemical cell of Claim 12, wherein the support member comprises in which the ion exchange membrane has a support structure comprising metal, plastic, carbon fibers or glass fibers.